

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01984 181455Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

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R 181355Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8178

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1984

FOLLOWING MSG SENT BRASILIA FOR CONCURRENCE FROM
RECIFE 17 MAR 75 TRANSMITTED HW TO DEPARTMENT FOR
ACTION.

QTE

RECIFE 0035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC BR

SUBJECT INFORMATION ON LUIS SOARES AKA ALANIR CARDOSO

REF: BRASILIA 1543

1. LUIS SOARES (AKA ALANIR CARDOSO), FRIEND OF FREDERICK MORRIS,
WAS INTERVIEWED ON 15 MARCH 1975 BY AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY AND A
BRAZILIAN PRIEST AT THE MAXIMUM SECURITY STATE PRISON NEAR RECIFE
WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY CONFINED.

2. SOARES RELATED THAT HE HAD SUFFERED QUOTE EXTREMELY SEVERE
AND EXTENDED TORTURE UNQUOTE FROM THE TIME OF HIS DETENTION ON
SEPTEMBER 30, 1974, UNTIL JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

3. HE SAID THAT SINCE THAT TIME, HOWEVER, HIS TREATMENT HAD
IMPROVED. HE APPEARS IN GOOD HEALTH NOW AND IS BEING HELD ALONG
WITH 28 OTHER PRISONERS WHO ARE SERVING SENTENCES APPLIED UNDER
THE TERMS OF THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SECURITY LAW. THE GROUP
OCCUPIES A SPECAIL SECTION OF THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON WHICH
HOUSES SEVERAL HUNDRED OTHER CONVICTS. THE SMALL GROUP, KNOWN
AS QUOTE POLITICAL PRISONERS UNQUOTE, ARE PERMITTED TO RECEIVE
VISITORS ONCE EACH WEEK.

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01984 181455Z

4. CARDOSO (SOARES) ADMITTED THAT HIS REAL NAME IS ALANIR CARDOSO AND THAT HE IN FACT HAD BEEN TRIED BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL IN THE STATE OF MINAS GERAIS AFTER HE HAD PUBLICLY DENOUNCED THE REGIME TO A STREET CROWD IN JUIZ DE FORA DURING THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1968. ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT HE HAD BEEN ABSOLVED BY A LOWER COURT OF CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM, HE CLAIMED THAT HE LATER LEARNED THAT HE HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS NINE MONTHS PRISON FOR HIS ACTIVITIES. HE CHANGED HIS NAME AND FLED TO GOIAS STATE. ONLY LAST YEAR, HE SAID, HAD HE COME TO RECIFE TO LOOK FOR EMPLOYMENT.

5. CARDOSO INSISTS THAT HE HAS NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY NOR OF THE LEFTIST ACAA POPULAR. HE DID ADMIT THAT HE WAS PREVIOUSLY A LEADER IN THE ACTIVIST UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION IN 1968. COMMENT: THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY WHO INTERVIEWED CARDOSO SAID THAT CARDOSO'S VIEWS OF THE WORLD ARE HIGHLY COLORED BY MARXIST IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND THAT IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY CARDOSO HAS HAD DIFFICULTY WITH BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES. END COMMENT.

6. CARDOSO SAID THAT NOW HE IS SERVING THE THREE YEAR NINE MONTH SENTENCE HANDED DOWN BY THE COURTS FOLLOWING HIS 1968 ESCAPADES. HE IS AWAITING FORMAL CHARGES AND TRIAL FOR FURTHER ACCUSATIONS WHICH MAY BE LEVIED BY THE AUTHORITIES FOLLOWING HIS MOST RECENT ARREST SIX MONTHS AGO. HE HAS ACCESS TO A LAWYER.

7. ALTHOUGH CARDOSO AND TWENTY-TWO OF THE OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS RECENTLY SIGNED A PETITION TO THE STATE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR COMPLAINING ABOUT THE PRISON'S FOOD AND CELL CONDITIONS, THE MISSIONARY AND THE PRIEST -- WHO ATE A REGULAR MEAL WITH THE INMATES -- STATED THAT THE FOOD SEEMED ADEQUATE AND THE CELLS, THOUGH SMALL, WERE VERY CLEAN.

8. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON THE ABOVE IN REPLY TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES SUCH AS THE REQUEST FROM SENATOR CARL CURTISS CONCERNING CARDOSO'S WELLFARE, AND WHEREABOUTS. THE SOURCES OF THE INFORMATION, WHOM I CONSIDER TO BE HIGHLY RELIABLE, SHOULD OF COURSE BE PROTECTED AND THE UNOFFICIAL NATURE OF THE INFORMATION SHOULD BE NOTED. BROWN UNQTE. CRIMMINS
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 01984 181455Z

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